

Ray Keeps His See-Saw Safari Going

By Al Burt
The Miami Herald

MIAMI, July 15 — Cuban exile leader Manuel Ray and his two-boat sea safari, which has been playing ocean tag with U.S. authorities for five days, secretly pulled back into Key West early today.

He was greeted by U.S. officials for the sixth time in a sequence which began last Saturday. They checked the entourage, found nothing in violation of U.S. laws, and released them.

Ray returned amid speculation that he was on his way to Cuba to organize a new clandestine war against Fidel Castro, as he had promised he would.

Here is how the five-day sequence of sea tag went:

Saturday morning. Ray's two boats (a larger one pulling a smaller one) were checked by U.S. officials as they left the Key West area and released.

That afternoon, some five miles at sea, the U.S. Coast Guard checked the boats again. This time, Ray and his three or four companions dumped some boxes overboard as the Coast Guard approached. The boxes sank, and the Ray party again was released.

Sunday. The Ray safari returned to Key West, and safely passed another check by Customs.

Monday. Out again, with the same two boats, and Customs gave them the usual check. That afternoon at sea, another Coast Guard check was made.

Tuesday. As no further word of Ray arrived, speculation began that this time he had infiltrated Cuba.

Wednesday. Ray came back to Key West.

Ray is the Cuban exile leader picked up by a British

destroyer in the Bahamas last month and fined \$14 for trespassing. At the time, he had been missing for some two weeks and there was speculation that he had gone into Cuba.

In May, 1963, Ray made a pledge in San Juan, Puerto Rico, that by May 20, 1964—Cuban independence day—he would be inside Cuba organizing a new underground war.

Embarrassed by his British capture, he nevertheless insisted he still would carry out his pledge. Little had been heard of him until Saturday, when he began his tag sequence with U.S. authorities.